

What is claimed is:

1. A mid-mount mower having a mower unit mounted between a front wheel unit and a pair of right and left rear wheels arranged rearwardly of a vehicle body to be independently shiftable, comprising:

5 a front frame unit including a pair of right and left front longitudinal frames, a first cross frame interconnecting said front longitudinal frames in forward positions thereof longitudinally of the vehicle body, and a second cross frame interconnecting said front longitudinal frames in rearward positions thereof longitudinally of the vehicle body, said front frame unit supporting said front wheel unit and also supporting a lift mechanism for vertically movably suspending the mower unit;

10 a rear frame unit including a pair of right and left rear longitudinal frames, said rear frame unit being connected to said front frame unit; and

a rear wheel drive unit interconnecting said rear longitudinal frames;

20 wherein said second cross frame has a downwardly opening recess disposed adjacent a middle position thereof, said recess allowing entry thereto of an upwardly protruding portion of said mower unit without interference when said mower unit is raised by said lift mechanism.

2. A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 1, wherein said upwardly protruding portion of the mower unit is a gear case protrusively mounted on a mower deck.

3. A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 1, wherein said upwardly protruding portion of the mower unit is a universal joint connecting an input shaft of the mower unit to a drive transmission shaft.

4. A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 1, wherein said second cross frame includes a first profile member (13a) having a gate-shape portion (13aa) defining a recess (28) and horizontal plate portions (13ab) connected respectively to lower ends of said gate-shape portion, and a vertical plate member (13b) connected to a rear end surface of said first profile member.

5. A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 4, wherein said horizontal plate portions (13ab) are arranged to receive rear ends of a footboard sheet member disposed as sunken between said right and left front longitudinal frames, and said vertical plate member (13b) having an upper end thereof supporting a pivotal axis of a driver's seat.

6. A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 1, wherein said second cross frame includes a first profile member (13a) having a gate-shape portion (13aa) defining a recess (28) and horizontal plate portions (13ab) connected respectively to lower ends of said gate-shape portion, a tilted vertical plate member (13b) connected to a rear end surface of said first profile member, a rear wall member (13e) connected to a rear end of the tilted vertical plate member (13b) to define therewith an internal space extending transversely of the vehicle body, and side plates (13d) for covering the internal space from lateral directions.

25